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## (U) LIGHTS...CAMERA... ACTION!

by Chase Brandon, OPA

On Saturday, June 20, cast and crew from *Showtime's The Agency* arrived bright and early to begin more than 12 hours of location shooting in the OHB lobby, first floor corridors, and back gate. Director Tim Matheson commanded a small army of lighting, camera, and production support technicians whose collective job was to film Tom Berenger's character (DO officer Kevin Jefferson) entering the building, crossing the great seal, and checking in with the Security Protective Officers (SPO). Additional scenes included Berenger walking down the main floor corridors and the DCI motorcade driving through the back gate. *The Agency* could air in the late fall, but probably will appear on Showtime in early 1999. (We'll keep *What's News* readers informed on show dates.)

Some ☐ Agency employees volunteered their time to be "extras," playing themselves walking through the lobby and along the hallways to give the appearance of a typical work day. The Center for CIA Security provided ☐ SPOs, both to enhance real life physical security measures during the filming, as well as to portray themselves in uniformed movie roles. Security Officer ☐ normally assigned to the duty post in the lobby, had a speaking role. Some of the extras had the opportunity to play the DCI's plain clothes protective detail; three of them had an additional measure of excitement as "stunt drivers," doing high speed driving through the back gate and through traffic in Washington.

*Showtime* had its own film crew on site, filming the filming of the movie as part of a "behind the scenes" look of *The Agency*. *Entertainment Tonight (ET)* was also on hand, filming the filming of the filming, as well as conducting interviews with Matheson, Berenger, CIA officials, and some of the extras. *ET's* segment, billed as an exclusive inside look at *The Agency* within the Agency, aired last week. P&PG's one-man "film crew" shot stills of everyone filming everyone else! The collage of photos will appear in OHB's ☐ corridor later this week.

Agency employees were impressed with the professionalism and logistical order of the film crew, and many commented on Matheson and Berenger's friendly personalities and easy going demeanors. *The Agency's* cast and crew were equally impressed with the Agency and its officers. "It is a real honor to be in this lobby . . . almost like a religious, spiritual experience," said Donna Croce, script assistant to Director Matheson. Canadian actress Kim Roberts, who plays the DCI's executive assistant, said: "Being inside the CIA is an unbelievable experience for me, and meeting real Agency officers is a true honor." Both the *Showtime* and *ET* crews commented on what they saw as "CIA's incredible support to the film" and in particular, the "amazingly warm, gracious and friendly nature of CIA people." Tim Matheson summed it up by observing: "Speaking on behalf of the entire cast and crew, I can only say that this was a fabulous experience for us. We are deeply grateful to George Tenet and his staff for the hospitality and support CIA provided to this project. We are proud of the work we do to entertain the country's moviegoers, and by virtue of coming here and getting to know the Agency's people and its mission, we better understand the pride you feel in protecting America's freedoms. May God protect and bless the wonderful men and women of the Central Intelligence Agency."

(This is **UNCLASSIFIED**.)

(U) *Extras, extras, read all about 'em. Agency extras get last-minute tips from a unit director.*


Photo by

(U) *The Agency team sets up for dozens of takes for scenes at the OHB lobby.*

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